

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LIMA 00034 032235Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 MED-03 SS-15 /033 W
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P R 032045Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3180
INFO DA WASHDC/DAMI-FLP
DIA WASHDC/AH7

UNCLAS LIMA 0034

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: MILI, OGEN
SUBJ: MEDICAL TREATMENT OF PERUVIAN NATIONAL BRIAN ZEGARRA

REF: USDAO LIMA 302207Z DEC 76

1. REFTEL SENT TO HQ DA FROM AIR ATTACHE LIMA REGARDING FURTHER MEDICAL TREATMENT OF BRIAN ZEGARRA, DEPENDENT SON OF CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER CONSTANTINO ZEGARRA, PERUVIAN AIR FORCE, WHO UNDERWENT TREATMENT AT WALTER REED ARMY MEDICAL CENTER (WRAMC) IN 1970. CWO ZEGARRA ASSIGNED TO PERUVIAN EMBASSY, WASHINGTON DURING THAT TIME.

2. CWO ZEGARRA RECEIVED A LETTER FROM WRAMC DOCTOR IN JUNE 1976 REQUESTING THAT BRIAN COME IN FOR A REEVALUATION IF IT WERE POSSIBLE FOR HIM TO RETURN TO WASHINGTON, DCMC. BRIAN IS A VICTIM OF POLIO.

3. AN APPOINTMENT FOR BRIAN WAS REQUESTED BY MAAG PERU. WRAMC ANSWERED THAT NO APPOINTMENT WOULD BE NECESSARY BUT BRIAN SHOULD COME IN QUOTE ANY THURSDAY MORNING UNQUOTE.

4. CWO ZEGARRA AND SON SENT TO WASHINGTON IN MID-DECEMBER 1976 BY PERUVIAN AIR FORCE. ZEGARRA APPARENTLY ON TDY TO PERUVIAN EMBASSY.

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5. AT THIS POINT IT WAS REALIZED BY WRAMC THAT THEY POSSESSED NO AUTHORITY TO CONSULT OR TREAT YOUNG ZEGARRA AND A MESSAGE WAS DISPATCHED TO THE EMBASSY (USDAO) CONCERNING THE MATTER. THIS WAS FIRST INFORMATION EMBASSY HAD OF THIS CASE.

6. A LATER MESSAGE TO THE USDAO STATED THAT PATIENT HAD,

IN FACT, BEEN EVALUATED AND NEEDED TREATMENT, BUT THAT THE HOSPITAL POSSESSED NO AUTHORITY TO ADMINISTER THE TREATMENT.

7. THE FACT IS THAT YOUNG ZEGARRA DOES NOT, IN ALL LIKELIHOOD, QUALIFY FOR TREATMENT IF CASE WERE CONSIDERED ADEQUATELY BEFORE THE FACT. (WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE THAT PERUVIAN MEDICAL FACILITIES ARE UNABLE TO PROVIDE PROPER TREATMENT).

8. THE ACTION OF WRAMC DOCTOR REQUESTING REEVALUATION, THE MESSAGE FROM WRAMC STATING WILLINGNESS TO SEE ZEGARRR, AND THE MAAG NOTIFICATION TO PAF THAT ZEGARRA WOULD BE SEEN (UNFORTUNATELY, THE CONNOTATION WAS CLEARLY THAT HE WOULD BE EVALUATED AND ALSO TREATED IF NECESSARY) CONSTITUTE A CHAIN OF EVENTS THAT RESULTED IN ZEGARRA AND HIS SON TRAVELING TO WASHINGTON IN FULL RELIANCE ON U.S. MEDICAL CARE.

9. REGARDLESS OF HOW THIS CASE DEVELOPED, IT MUST NOW BE DEALT WITH. TO DENY THIS PATIENT THE TREATMENT NECESSARY WOULD IN MY VIEW REFLECT ADVERSELY ON GOOD FAITH OF USG, AND COULD HAVE DETRIMENTAL EFFECT ON THE QUALITY, TIMELINESS AND AMOUNT OF FUTURE MEDICAL ATTENTION USG MILITARY PERSONNEL CAN EXPECT IN PERU. I, THEREFORE, URGE THAT BRIAN ZEGARRA BE AUTHORIZED TREATMENT (AT GOP OR PERSONAL EXPENSE) PER WRAMC EVALUATION RECOMMENDATIONS.
DEAN

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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